

Hon. Benjamin H. Settle

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT TACOMA

DAVID PENNER MD PLLC, <i>et al.</i> ,	)	Case No.: 3:25-cv-05033-BHS
Plaintiff,	)	STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER
vs.	)	Noted for Consideration: May 12, 2025
CLEAR TMS+, PLLC,	)	
Defendant.	)	

1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this agreement is consistent with LCR 26(c). It does not confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively entitle parties to file confidential information under seal.

2. "CONFIDENTIAL" MATERIAL

"Confidential" material shall include the following documents and tangible things produced or otherwise exchanged: Proprietary information for both parties as to marketing data

(e.g. keywords, cost per click, click through rate, and similar information) and as to professional services (e.g. appointment costs, frequency of visits, billing codes, and similar information); and financial information for both parties as to clinic revenue, cost of service, and profitability).

#### SCOPE

The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only confidential material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from confidential material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of confidential material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal confidential material. However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is in the public domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.

### 3. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

3.1 Basic Principles. A receiving party may use confidential material that is disclosed or produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Confidential material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this agreement. Confidential material must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement.

3.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may disclose any confidential material only to:

- (a) the receiving party’s counsel of record in this action, as well as employees of counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;

- 1 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in house counsel) of the receiving  
2 party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation, unless the parties  
3 agree that a particular document or material produced is for Attorney's Eyes Only  
4 and is so designated;
- 5 (c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation  
6 and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit  
7 A);
- 8 (d) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;
- 9 (e) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication of  
10 confidential material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or  
11 imaging service instructs the service not to disclose any confidential material to third  
12 parties and to immediately return all originals and copies of any confidential  
13 material;
- 14 (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is reasonably  
15 necessary and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound"  
16 (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the  
17 court. Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal  
18 confidential material must be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be  
19 disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this agreement;
- 20 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or  
21 other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

22 4.3 Filing Confidential Material. Before filing confidential material or discussing or  
23 referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer with the designating party,  
24 in accordance with Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(A), to determine whether the designating party will

1 remove the confidential designation, whether the document can be redacted, or whether a  
2 motion to seal or stipulation and proposed order is warranted. During the meet and confer  
3 process, the designating party must identify the basis for sealing the specific confidential  
4 information at issue, and the filing party shall include this basis in its motion to seal, along with  
5 any objection to sealing the information at issue. Local Civil Rule 5(g) sets forth the procedures  
6 that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from  
7 the court to file material under seal. A party who seeks to maintain the confidentiality of its  
8 information must satisfy the requirements of Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(B), even if it is not the  
9 party filing the motion to seal. Failure to satisfy this requirement will result in the motion to seal  
10 being denied, in accordance with the strong presumption of public access to the Court's files.

11 4. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

12 4.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each party or  
13 non-party that designates information or items for protection under this agreement must  
14 take care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the  
15 appropriate standards. The designating party must designate for protection only those  
16 parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify, so  
17 that other portions of the material, documents, items, or communications for which  
18 protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably within the ambit of this  
19 agreement. Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations  
20 that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose  
21 (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber or delay the case development process or to impose  
22 unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) expose the designating party to  
23 sanctions. If it comes to a designating party's attention that information or items that it  
24

1 designated for protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party must  
2 promptly notify all other parties that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

3 4.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this agreement  
4 (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(b) below), or as otherwise stipulated or  
5 ordered, disclosure or discovery material that qualifies for protection under this  
6 agreement must be clearly so designated before or when the material is disclosed or  
7 produced.

8 (a) Information in documentary form: (e.g., paper or electronic documents and  
9 deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial  
10 proceedings), the designating party must affix the word “CONFIDENTIAL” to each  
11 page that contains confidential material. If only a portion or portions of the material  
12 on a page qualifies for protection, the producing party also must clearly identify the  
13 protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

14 (b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial proceedings: the parties and any  
15 participating non-parties must identify on the record, during the deposition or other  
16 pretrial proceeding, all protected testimony, without prejudice to their right to so  
17 designate other testimony after reviewing the transcript. Any party or non-party may,  
18 within fifteen days after receiving the transcript of the deposition or other pretrial  
19 proceeding, designate portions of the transcript, or exhibits thereto, as confidential. If  
20 a party or non-party desires to protect confidential information at trial, the issue  
21 should be addressed during the pre-trial conference.

22 (c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place on the  
23 exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the  
24 word “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the information or item

warrant protection, the producing party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

4.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the designating party's right to secure protection under this agreement for such material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the receiving party must make reasonable efforts to ensure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

## 5. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

5.1 Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a designation of confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating party's confidentiality designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the original designation is disclosed.

5.2 Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any dispute regarding confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion regarding confidential designations or for a protective order must include a certification, in the motion or in a declaration or affidavit, that the movant has engaged in a good faith meet and confer conference with other affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without court action. The certification must list the date, manner, and participants to the conference. A good faith effort to confer requires a face-to-face meeting or a telephone conference.

5.3 Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without court intervention, the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under Local Civil Rule 7 (and in compliance with Local Civil Rule 5(g), if applicable). The burden of

1 persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating party. Frivolous challenges,  
2 and those made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses  
3 and burdens on other parties) may expose the challenging party to sanctions. All parties  
4 shall continue to maintain the material in question as confidential until the court rules on  
5 the challenge.

6 6. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER  
7 LITIGATION

8 If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that  
9 compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL,”  
10 that party must:

- 11 a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of the subpoena or  
12 court order;
- 13 b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the  
14 other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is  
15 subject to this agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of this agreement; and
- 16 c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the  
17 designating party whose confidential material may be affected.

18 7. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

19 If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed  
20 confidential material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this agreement,  
21 the receiving party must immediately (a) notify in writing the designating party of the  
22 unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the  
23 protected material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were  
24

made of all the terms of this agreement, and (d) request that such person or persons execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

8. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED MATERIAL

When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the receiving parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order or agreement that provides for production without prior privilege review. The parties agree to the entry of a non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502(d) as set forth herein.

9. NON TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS

Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, each receiving party must return all confidential material to the producing party, including all copies, extracts and summaries thereof. Alternatively, the parties may agree upon appropriate methods of destruction.

Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain one archival copy of all documents filed with the court, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain confidential material.

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1 The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect until a  
2 designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise.

3 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

4 ROCKE | LAW Group, PLLC

Carney Badley Spellman, P.S

5 s/ Aaron V. Roche

6 Aaron V. Roche, WSBA No. 31525

7 Roche Law Group, PLLC

8 500 Union Street, Suite 909

9 Seattle, WA 98101

10 Phone: (206) 652-8670

Fax: (206) 452-5895

aaron@rockelaw.com

*Attorney for Plaintiff*

s/ Christopher Thayer

Christopher Thayer, WSBA No. 23609

Carney Badley Spellman, P.S.

701 5th Ave Ste. 3600

Seattle, WA 98104-7010

Phone: (206) 622-8020

Fax: (206) 467-8215

thayer@carneylaw.com

*Attorney for Defendant*

11 PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED

12 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 502(d), the production of any  
13 documents, electronically stored information (ESI) or information, whether inadvertent or  
14 otherwise, in this proceeding shall not, for the purposes of this proceeding or any other federal  
15 or state proceeding, constitute a waiver by the producing party of any privilege applicable to  
16 those documents, including the attorney-client privilege, attorney work-product protection, or  
17 any other privilege or protection recognized by law. This Order shall be interpreted to provide  
18 the maximum protection allowed by Fed. R. Evid. 502(d). The provisions of Fed. R. Evid.  
19 502(b) do not apply.

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25 PROTECTIVE ORDER  
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ROCKE | LAW Group, PLLC  
500 Union St., Suite 909  
Seattle, WA 98101  
(206) 652-8670

1 Nothing contained herein is intended to or shall serve to limit a party's right to conduct a review  
2 of documents, ESI or information (including metadata) for relevance, responsiveness and/or  
3 segregation of privileged and/or protected information before production. Information produced  
4 in discovery that is protected as privileged or work product shall be immediately returned to the  
5 producing party.

6 DATED: May 13, 2025



Benjamin H. Settle  
United States District Court Judge

**EXHIBIT A**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full name], of  
\_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of  
perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was  
issued by the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington on \_\_\_\_\_  
[date] in the case of *David Penner vs. Clear TMS+ PLLC, 3:25-cv-05033-BHS*. I agree to  
comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I  
understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and  
punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner  
any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity  
except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Western  
District of Washington for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective  
Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

City and State where sworn and signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**DECLARATION OF SERVICE**

I sent a copy of the foregoing Proposed Stipulated Protective Order to the following in the manner indicated:

**Via Email to:**

Christopher Thayer  
Andrew Stokes  
701 5th Ave Ste 3600  
Seattle, WA 98104-7010  
(206) 607-4150  
Fax: (206) 467-8215  
thayer@carneylaw.com  
stokes@carneylaw.com

on today's date.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my belief.

Signed and DATED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025 in Seattle, Washington.

*s/Aimee Davenport*

Aimee Davenport, Legal Assistant